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RUGELEY
Urban District Council



YEAR 1944

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT**



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To The

RUGELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1944.

After over five years of war, the general health of the district has been well maintained, and the Vital Statistics show satisfactory figures.

The Birth Rate is 2.3 higher and the Death Rate 2.2 lower than the rates for the country as a whole.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 35 is considerably lower than the rate for the whole country.

There was no death from Maternal causes.

The number of notifications of Tuberculosis, which, in 1942, had very much increased, has dropped to a low figure.

The housing situation, though a little eased by the return home of evacuees, is still an urgent problem.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. SMITH, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council, and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. CRADDOCK, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., who is also Collector of the Council's Rents.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	...	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	7,976
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£33,481
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£129
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1944	...	...	...	...	...	2,220

VITAL STATISTICS

					Total	M.	F.
Live Births	...	...	...	...	167	76	91
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	161	74	87
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population						20.9	
Birth Rate for England and Wales						17.6	
					Total	M.	F.
Still Births, Legitimate	...	...	...	...	9	2	7
„ Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population						1.12	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales...						0.50	
					Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	75	41	34
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population						9.4	
Death Rate for England and Wales						11.6	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

					Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality Rate					35		
England and Wales					46		
Deaths from Cancer						9	
Deaths from Measles						Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough						2	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)						1	
Deaths from Puerperal Cases						Nil	

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Isolation Hospital of the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board has continued to give excellent service.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

An immunisation session has been held monthly for this treatment.

122 infants under school age were treated.

13 children of school age were treated.

At the end of the year it was estimated that 70% under school age and 95% school children were treated.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1944

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	15	11	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	2	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5	2	2
Measles	...	...	...	31	Nil	Nil
Puerperal-Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	1	1

Analysis of Infectious Diseases classified according to age

	Under										
Age Groups	1	1	2	3	4	5	6/10	11/15	16/20	21/35	36/45
Scarlet Fever		2	1	1		4	6			1	
Diphtheria								1	1		
Measles		3	2	3	3	5	15				
Whooping Cough		1		2		1		1			
Pneumonia			1								
Cerebro-Spinal Fever					1						
Puerperal Pyrexia										1	

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1944 there were 61 cases on the register.

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
20	17	12	12

New Cases and Mortality, 1944

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1- 5							1	
6-15		1						
16-25			1					
26-35				1				
36-45					1	1		
46-55							1	
56-65								
Over 65								
Totals		1	1	1	1	1	2	

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	12		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	10		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers premises)			
Total	22	Nil	Nil

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*						Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2	2

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES N. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH					Males	Females
ALL CAUSES					41	34
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	1	
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	1
7	Other forms of tuberculosis diseases	...	...	...	2	
8	Syphilis	...	...	...
9	Influenza	...	...	...
10	Measles	...	...	...
11	Acute Polio-Wyelitis	...	...	...
12	Acute Inf-Encephalitis	...	...	...
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity M. Heart F	...	...	...
14	Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach	...	...	...	1	1
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...		1
16	Cancer of other sites...	...	...	...	4	2
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions	...	...	...	2	1
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	14	7
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	1	2
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...		1
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...		2
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	1	
25	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...
28	Nephritis	...	...	...
29	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	2	1
32	Congenital mal. birth injuries...	...	...	...	1	1
33	Suicide	...	...	...
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...		1
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	1	1
36	All other causes	...	...	...	6	8
Special causes (included in No. 35 above).						
	Smallpox	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Deaths of (Total ...)					4	2
Infants —(Legitimate ...)					4	2
under 1 year (Illegitimate ...)					—	—
Live Births (Total ...)					76	91
—(Legitimate ...)					74	87
(Illegitimate ...)					2	4
Stillbirths (Total ...)					2	7
—(Legitimate ...)					2	7
(Illegitimate ...)					—	—
Population ...					7976	

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Fourteenth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1944.

Closet Accommodation

The Town area is mostly sewered and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewerage of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 pails and privies, and 131 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have water-closets to cesspools.

Nuisances have again arisen during the year from the overflowing of the cesspools at Hednesford Road and in my opinion the sewerage of this area is desirable.

Public Cleansing

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special Sludge cart.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—During the year one Council House was found to be infested. The Council's workmen disinfested it by the following methods:—All picture moulding, skirting, boarding, etc., was removed and sprayed at intervals. All defective plaster, furniture, nail were cut out; and the back of the boarding, the plaster, furniture, nail holes, etc., were sprayed with insecticide. The insecticide used was Bo No. A spray was left with the tenant for frequent spraying. The workmen called after one month to repeat the spraying, made good the plaster, and replaced or renewed necessary woodwork. Only distemper or paint was allowed on the walls. The tenant was given instructions to notify any reinfestation, and calls were made at intervals to see that the house was kept clean. The premises of prospective Council house tenants are examined and, if infested, endeavours are made to disinfect the house and furniture by the method described above, before removal to a Council house.

Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Shops Acts

The Shops' Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc.

Sanitary Inspection of District

Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey ...	1760
Number of Final Notices issued	21
Number of Final Notices complied with	17
Number of Informal Notices issued	208
Number of Informal Notices complied with	187

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in above Notices

Drains and Water Closets amended in construction and/or cleansed	43
Dwelling Houses needing repair	21
Dwelling Houses Overcrowded	0
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	20
Scavenging	42
Offensive accumulations	20
Other matters	6
Removal of Caravan Dwellers	0
Shops Acts Sanitary Conveniences, etc	0
Cesspools emptied, etc.	29
Burst Water Piping	10
New Water Service	3
Spouting	7
Pump	0
Knackers Yard Alterations	1
Verminous Premises	6

Infectious Diseases

Number of Rooms disinfected	20
Number of Schools disinfected	0
Number of Beds disinfected	6

Smoke Abatement

No action taken or found necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations

The Council have Bye-Laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district. There is a Tannery in the district. There are no underground sleeping places in the district. There are no Bye-Laws for: Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop-pickers.

Schools

In Rugeley Town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available and the schools have pail closets which are emptied every week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Housing

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection— (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts		25
Number of inspections made for that purpose		76
(2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925		0
Number of inspections made for that purpose		0
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		4
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation		0

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defected dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	15
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3. Action under Statutory powers.

A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1930, Sections 17, 18 and 23.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served and requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:	
(a) By owners	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Formal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	6
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

c.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the owners not to let them for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses demolished. They were houses in respect of which owners had given undertakings not to relet	0

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1936	58
(ii) Number of families living therein	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	370½
(b)— Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	14

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply. 62 visits have been paid to farms and dairies; and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. Ten informal notices were served and complied with.
There are eighteen Cowkeepers and Dairy-men residing in the district, and ten Retail Purveyors, whose dairies are outside our district. The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of Milk for Bacterial Content and for tubercle bacilli.

(b) Meat and other foods.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses	8
Number of visits to Butchers' Shops, Grocery and Vegetable Shops, Fish Shop Stalls, etc.	2000
Number of Informal Notices served	20
Number of Informal Notices complied with	20

All cases of slaughtering are now carried out at Stafford Abattoir.

I found the following unfit for human consumption, and had the same surrendered to me:—45 tins of meat, 66 tins of fish, 11 tins of fruit, 70 tins of vegetables, 179 eggs, 66 lbs. bacon, 58 tins of milk and one case of lemons.

(c) Adulteration, etc. This is not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. The Staffordshire County Council has provided laboratories and carry out such work.

Water Supply

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Company. The quantity is satisfactory. Samples are submitted twice a year to the County Bacteriologist and the County Analyst, and all samples are reported favourable. The supply is a constant one and does not have a plumbo-solvent action. Brereton Collieries Ltd. supply six houses and a farm with a supply of water from the Colliery. During the year a sample of this water was found to be contaminated. Demolition orders have been placed on six of the houses and Brereton Collieries have promised to provide a supply of the Council's water to the farm. Up to the present this has not been carried out.

Brereton Collieries have also promised to provide a supply of the Council's water over the sinks of the two houses at the Levels, which are at present a long way from a stand-pipe.

At Etching Hill and Slitting Mill the tenants of about twenty houses have to carry South Staffs. Water a long distance from stand-pipes. In my opinion, water should be provided over the sinks in these houses, but it will be an expensive matter.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. G. CRADDOCK.

